

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 10, 2006 (“*Office Action*”). Claims 1, 7-8, 14-17, 23-24, 28-29, 31, 37-39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49-53 are pending in the Application. Claim 38 stands rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner’s indication that Claims 1, 7-8, 14-17, 23-24, 28-29, 31, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49-53 (all claims other than Claim 38) are allowable. Although Applicants believe Claim 38 also to be allowable, Applicants cancel Claim 38 to hasten issuance of the allowed claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects Claim 38 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0001302 A1, by Pickett (“*Pickett*”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,100,882, which issued to Sharman et al. (“*Sharman*”). To hasten issuance of the allowed claims, Applicants cancel Claim 38, thus obviating the rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are thus now in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner’s indications.

Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Although no fees are believed to be currently due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Kurt M. Pankratz
Reg. No. 46,977

Date: May 9, 2006

Customer Number **05073**